



CITY OF RICHMOND
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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richmond City Sheriff's Office continues to be committed to ensuring the safety of the inmates housed at the Richmond City Justice Center, the staff, and everyone who enters into the facilities. There are no guarantees in totally eliminating the possibility of the virus from having an impact on the Sheriff's Office. We continue to take the necessary measures to reduce the spread of infection. We have instituted all of the guidelines recommended by the CDC to include wearing masks, social distancing within the facility, and courts, hand washing/hand sanitizing, daily temperature checks, and increased janitorial cleaning throughout the day at the facility. When new inmates come into the facility, they are not placed in general population. Instead, they are quarantined in an area strictly for new arrivals where they are housed for a minimum of 14 days. During our weekly walk-throughs of the facility our goal is to be proactive and keep our finger on the pulse of the wellness of all individuals. At the first sign of any symptoms (staff or inmate) we quarantine and quickly test individuals to determine a diagnosis. We have asked our staff not to visit any hotspots, to wear masks, and to also take sanitizing, cleaning, and disinfecting precautions at all times. We ask our staff members to self-quarantine or test after vacations, or interactions which may have placed them in contact with someone with positive results. We remind our staff members of the importance of social distancing, good cough hygiene, and cloth face covers to prevent transmission since COVID-19 is in the community, there will always be a risk for introduction and it is good to always maintain safe practices.

The Virginia Health Department has assisted the Richmond City Sheriff's Office in conducting voluntarily COVID-19 testing. The goal is to continue to maintain the safety of everyone and the pulse of virus within the facility and the welfare of the population. We currently have 5 staff members and 12 inmates that are quarantined as a result of COVID-19 testing positive, or maybe displaying symptoms, or may have come in contact with either the inmates, staff members or other outside entities such as home, work, or community. There are no COVID-19 related hospitalizations.

We know we still have a lot of hard work ahead of us to maintain the health and safety of inmates and staff. We continue to monitor the health and welfare of the inmates, staff, contractors, and vendors that enter into our facilities and others that we make contact with daily.

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